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Message Text

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60
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAM-01 SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-03 NSC-10 SS-20 IO-14 OIC-04

AEC-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 /146 W
---------- 086010
R 011907Z MAR 74
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4376
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1161

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS/ PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR: COST-SHARING

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: STATE 36054; STATE 35814

1. AT FEB 38 SPC MEETING, ITALIAN REP CONTINUED TO INSIST
THAT ALLIES FIND AN EQUITABLE FORMULA FOR SHARING MBFR CONFERENCE
COSTS AMONG THEM. HE COULD NOT ACCEPT AS A MTTER OF PRINCIPLE THAT
AN ALLIED AGREEMENT REACHED BY CONSENSUS COULD NOT BE REVIEWED; IN
ANY CASE, ITALIAN DEL HAD MADE CLEAR THAN IN ACCEPTING
HELSINKI FORMULA FOR PAYING AUSTRIANS, THEY DID NOT ACCEPT THIS
AS BASIS FOR SHARES AMONG NATO ALLIES. CANADA JOINED OTHER ALLIES
(BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, DENAMRK, NORWAY AND GREECE), IN SUPPORTING
ITALIAN REVIEW.

2. UK REP ARGUED THAT, IRRESPECTIVE OF ITALIAN VIEW ON
INTERNAL REPARTITION OF COSTS, ALLIES WRE OBLIGED TO
AUSTRIAN GOVT TO REIMBURSE IT ACCORDING TO HELSINKI
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FORMULA. HE NOTED THAT NO ALLY, INCLUDING ITALY, DISAGREED
WITH THIS INTERPRETATION. MOREOVER, HE BELIEVED THAT A MATTER
OF PRINCIPLE WAS INVOLVED; IT WAS BAD PRACTICE, IN VIEW OF THE
DIFFICULTIES IN REACHING AN ALLIANCE CONSENSUS, FOR AN ALLY TO

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TAKE A RESERVATION ON A CONSENSUS JUST A FEW WEEKS AFTER IT
WAS REACHED. HE ADDED THAT WHILE ITALY HAD JOINED CONSENSUS
IN SEPT TO HELSINKI'S FORMULA, IT HAD WAITED UNTIL JAN
TO RAISE SERIOUS OBJECTIONS ABOUT COST-SHARING. DRAWING ON
STATE 18621, US REP EMPHASIZED THAT US BUDGETARY PLANNING
HAD BEEN BASED ON UNDERSTANDING THAT HELSINKI FORMULA WOULD APPLY.
FRG AGREED WITH POSITION OF UK AND US.

3. ITALIAN REP RESPONDED, THAT, IN VIEW INTRANSIGENT POSITIONS
OF US, UK AND FRG, IT WOULD BE BETTER TO DEFER THIS MATTER TO
THE COUNCIL. SPC CHAIRMAN DOUBTED THAT COUNCIL DISCUSSION WOULD
PRODUCE DIFFERENT RESULT. BELGIAN REP, IN EFFORT TO FIND COMPRO-
MISE, SAID THAT ITALY MIGHT PAY ACCORDING TO HELSINKI FORMULA FOR
REMAINING FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1974, AND THAT ALLIES COULD
CONSIDER A POSSIBLE INTERNAL ARRANGEMENT BASED ON A DIFFERENT
FORMULA AFTER THAT TIME. ITALIAN REP AGREED THAT ONE MORE SPC
DISCUSSION MIGHT BE USEFUL BEFORE MATTER WENT TO NAC.

4. COMMENT: UK REP TOLD US AFTER MEETING THAT HE THOUGHT
UK HAD ITALY "ON THE ROPES" ON THIS QUESTION. THERE WAS NO DOUBT
THAT ALLIES WERE COMMITTED TO REIMBURSE AUSTRIANS ACCORDING
TO HELSINKI FORMULA, WHICH MEANT THAT ITALY WOULD HAVE
TO KEEP PAYING AUSTRIA AT THIS RATE WHETHER ROME LIKED IT OR NOT.
AS FOR INTERNAL REDISTRIBUTION OF COSTS AMONG ALLIES, UK REP
SAID THERE WAS NOT AND, FROM LONDON'S STANDPOINT, WOULD NOT
TO BE AN ALLIED CONSENSUS TO DO THIS. RUMSFELD

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